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# DELEGATION SEEKS FARM LOAN POST

## Discrimination In Loans To Colored Farmers Cited As Cause

## EVIDENCE IS NEEDED

### Board Would Act Then Says Lewis Pettijohn

**WASHINGTON. —The Federal Farm Loan Board is not informed in respect of discrimination against Negro farmers.**

The Federal Loan Board knows that very many colored farmers have obtained loans. The Board has no authority in the matter of appointment of its members; which is an executive function vested by the law in the president. The Board, however, is authorized to select administrative personnel. And the Board would add a colored person to the staff if and when it should be furnished with evidence of discrimination against Negroes in the application of the Federal Farm Loan Act.

Such substantially was the position of the Board as stated to Arthur G. Froe, Recorder of Deeds, D. C., by Lewis J. Pettijohn, Federal Farm Loan Board member, at his office in the Barr Building here July 17. Mr. Froe was accompanied by Rienzi Blemus, president, Brotherhood of Dining Car Employes, and H. H. Jones, Recorder of Deeds Office. Mr. Froe was discussing administrative appointments of the board, and it was in reply to Mr. Jones' question that Mr. Pettijohn cited the fact that the board has no control over appointment of its members.

*Loan Sharks*

Despite the number of Negro farmers who have borrowed through the board, the majority find it extremely difficult or quite impossible to do so and, consequently, are at the mercy of loan sharks who charge usurious interest rates and bonuses. The difficulty of getting the evidence in due form, due to fear of reprisals, was what constrained Recorder Froe to impress Mr. Pettijohn with the necessity for adding a qualified colored man to the board's administrative personnel.

*Gainey's Work Cited*

Mr. Froe cited the invaluable service rendered the Postal Department and colored postal employes by Mr. John D. Gainey, Assistant chief clerk-at large Railway Mail Service. Mr. Gainey's post is not statutory; it was created by the Postmaster General because of untoward conditions, difficult to get at, which affected colored employes. No more vital matter confronts colored Americans than that of having colored farmers relieved of usurious interest and bonus money rates. The ratio of colored farmers to the total of farmers is 50 per cent greater than the ratio of Negroes to the total population of the country.—The Negro farm interests represent an investment of over two billion dollars

# Government To Aid Negro Farmers

Washington, June 20.—Colored farmers throughout the nation will be glad to learn that the Federal Farm Loan Bureau has virtually been reorganized by the new members of the Federal Farm Loan Board, who were recently appointed by President Coolidge, to whom appeals have been made for a more liberal extension of rural credits to colored farmers.

In its annual statement, issued last week, the board declared: "Indications are seen of a turn in the tide and farm values are gradually improving." While admitting that some of the farm banks had been mismanaged, with the result that three of them were thrown into the hands of receivers during the past year, the board said that the farm loan system had demonstrated its soundness and usefulness.

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# GEORGIAN DRAFTS NEW FARM PLAN

Washington, February 21.—(AP)—Another farm relief plan was outlined to congress today in a bill by Representative Edwards, democrat, Savannah, Ga., who proposed the creation of a federal farm relief and finance corporation and the appropriation of $750,000,000 for carrying out its activities.

The corporation would be directed to "stabilize the markets for all farm products from unduc and excessive fluctuations; to provide for the control and disposition of the surplus of farm commodities, and to promote orderly marketing of the same in interstate and foreign commerce."

**Seeks Revolving Fund.**

The corporation would operate on lines similar to those of the war finance corporation and would embody some of the features of the bill of Representative Crisp, democrat, Georgia, Edwards said.

The $750,000,000 appropriation provided for in the bill would be used as a revolving fund with not more than $250,000,000 expended in any one year. Representative Edwards proposed that the intermediate credit bank, the federal reserve bank and other existing government organizations coordinate with a board of twelve, representing each of the federal land bank districts and appointed by the president for terms of six years, in the administration of the fund.

Representative Edwards stipulated that membership to the board would be restricted to persons actually engaged in agriculture in order to keep control of the money in the hands of men interested in farm relief and to eliminate the possibility of sharp fluctuations in the administration of its surpluses.